

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for generating, synchronizing, and displaying time code to be recorded on film or videotape during the recording of the video portion of a film or videotape in production, to be utilized in conjunction with a master clock time code recorded in a system for the recording of the corresponding audio portion of the film or videotape in production, wherein the audio recording system is external to the displaying system, and wherein the video time code displayed by the displaying system is synchronized with the audio time code recorded in the audio recording system, comprising:

5 a generating element for generating, synchronizing, and displaying the video time code, mounted in the system; and

10 a display for displaying the synchronized video time code, to which the generating element is connected, mounted in the system.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the system comprises a slate.

3. The system of claim 2, further comprising a rate-setting element for enabling the setting of a video frame rate in the slate, and a rate-warning element for warning the operator if the video frame rate set in the slate is different from an audio frame rate set in the audio recording system external to the slate.

4. The system of claim 2, further comprising a rate-setting element for enabling the setting of a video frame rate in the slate, and a rate-determining element for automatically determining an audio frame rate set in the audio

recording system external to the slate, and for locking the video frame rate to the  
5 audio frame rate.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the slate further includes a clapper, adapted to be closed at the start of a take, and to freeze the time code displayed in the display at the start of the take, for enabling the video recording of the time code at the start of the take, and for enabling synchronizing of the video time code  
5 and the audio time code at the start of the take, for synchronizing the recorded video with the recorded audio.

6. The system of claim 2, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, a compartment for containing the portable power supply, and a sliding door adapted to cover and enable access into the compartment.

7. The system of claim 2, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, and a voltage-displaying element for displaying the voltage of the portable power supply.

8. The system of claim 2, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, and a low-power warning element for warning of low portable power.

9. The system of claim 2, wherein the slate includes a face plate, and the face plate includes an area thereon for enabling the written entry of information relating to the production.

10. The system of claim 2, further comprising a settings element for enabling the setting of modes of operation of the system.

11. The system of claim 4, further comprising a rate-determining element for automatically determining the audio frame rate, and for locking the video frame rate to the audio frame rate.

12. The system of claim 5, further comprising a scroll-back element for enabling the operator to scroll back to the display of time code at the start of a prior take.

13. The system of claim 6, wherein the portable power supply comprises a plurality of batteries.

14. The system of claim 6, wherein the compartment is further adapted to house a plurality of control knobs, and the sliding door is adapted to uncover the control knobs for access thereto without uncovering the portable power supply.

15. The system of claim 6, further including a battery pack for containing the plurality of batteries, adapted to be installed in the compartment.

16. The system of claim 7, wherein the voltage-displaying element is adapted to display the portable power voltage in the display under load upon starting up the system.

17. The system of claim 8, further comprising a no-power warning element for warning of no power in the portable power supply.

18. The system of claim 9, wherein the production-related information which is adapted to be written in the written-entry-enabling area comprises camera logs.

19. The system of claim 10, further comprising an adjusting element for enabling the adjustment of the settings in the setting element.

20. The system of claim 10, further comprising a settings remembering element for remembering the settings when there is no power in the system.

21. The system of claim 10, further including a clapper, adapted to be closed at the end of the take, wherein the settings element includes a hold clap frame mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the display of the start time of the take, upon the passing of a set period of time after the display turns off, upon the closing of the clapper after the opening thereof upon the start of the take, to enable the observation of the start take time after the end of the take.

22. The system of claim 10, wherein the settings element includes a battery life conserving mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the display to turn off after a set period of time.

23. The system of claim 10, wherein the settings element includes a synchronization reminding mode, adapted to be set so as to remind the user to periodically re-synchronize the video time code and the audio time code.

24. The system of claim 10, wherein the settings element includes a synchronization locking mode, adapted to be set so as to indicate that the video time code and audio time code have been synchronized, and that the system has been turned on, turned off, and turned on again, alerting the user to re-synchronize the video time code and the audio time code.

25. The system of claim 10, wherein the slate further includes a clapper adapted to be closed at the start of a take, and to freeze the time code displayed in the display element at the start of the take, and wherein the settings element includes a flash frame mode, adapted to be set so as to increase the intensity of the display upon closing the clapper to display a flash frame, and to hold the intensified display for a number of frames.

26. The system of claim 10, wherein the settings element includes a non-volatile memory for the modes settings, adapted to retain the memory without backup power.

27. The system of claim 10, wherein the settings element includes a low brightness mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the lowering of the brightness of the display.

28. The system of claim 12, wherein the scroll-back element is adapted to enable scrolling back to the display of time code for the start of each of a plurality of prior takes.

29. The system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of batteries comprise six double-A batteries.

30. The system of claim 18, wherein the camera logs include the type of film roll being used and the current film roll in production.

31. The system of claim 19, wherein the adjusting element comprises an adjustment setting button, adapted to change the setting upon actuation thereof.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein the plurality of prior take portions comprise about sixteen prior takes.

33. A method of generating, synchronizing, and displaying time code to be recorded on film or videotape during the recording of the video portion of a film or videotape in production, to be utilized in conjunction with a master clock time code recorded in a system for the recording of the corresponding audio portion of

5 the film or videotape in production, wherein the audio recording system is external to the displaying system, and wherein the video time code displayed by the displaying system is synchronized with the audio time code recorded in the audio recording system, in a system which comprises a generating element for generating, synchronizing, and displaying the video time code, mounted in the  
10 system, and a display for displaying the synchronized video time code, to which the reading element is connected, mounted in the system, wherein the method comprises:

generating and synchronizing the video time code with the audio time code;  
reading and enabling the displaying of the video time code; and  
15 displaying the video time code.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the system comprises a slate, and wherein generating, synchronizing, and displaying the video time code are performed in the slate.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising a rate-setting element for enabling the setting of a video frame rate in the slate, and a rate-warning element for warning the operator if the video frame rate set in the slate is different from an audio frame rate set in the audio recording system external to the slate, further  
5 comprising setting the video frame rate, and warning the operator if the set video frame rate differs from the set audio frame rate.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising a rate-setting element for enabling the setting of a video frame rate in the slate, and a rate-determining element for automatically determining an audio frame rate set in the audio recording system external to the slate, and for locking the video frame rate to the

- 5 audio frame rate, further comprising setting the video frame rate, automatically determining the set audio frame rate, and locking the video frame rate to the audio frame rate.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the slate further includes a clapper, adapted to be closed at the start of a take, and to freeze the time code displayed in the display at the start of the take, for enabling the video recording of the time code at the start of the take, and for enabling synchronizing of the video time code  
5 and the audio time code at the start of the take, for synchronizing the recorded video with the recorded audio, further comprising closing the clapper at the start of the take, and freezing the time code displayed in the display at the start of the take.

38. The method of claim 34, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, a compartment for containing the portable power supply, and a sliding door adapted to cover and enable access into the compartment, further comprising supplying portable power to the slate.

39. The method of claim 34, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, and a voltage-displaying element for displaying the voltage of the portable power supply, further comprising supplying portable power to the slate, and displaying the voltage of the portable power  
5 supply.

40. The method of claim 34, further comprising a portable power supply for supplying portable power to the slate, and a low-power warning element for



warning of low portable power, further comprising supplying portable power to the slate, and warning of low portable power.

41. The method of claim 34, wherein the slate includes a face plate, and the face plate includes an area thereon for enabling the written entry of information relating to the production, further comprising entering information relating to the production in writing thereon.

42. The method of claim 34, further comprising a settings element for enabling the setting of modes of operation of the system, further comprising setting the modes of operation of the system.

43. The method of claim 36, further comprising a rate-determining element for automatically determining the audio frame rate, and for locking the video frame rate to the audio frame rate, further comprising automatically determining the audio frame rate, and locking the video frame rate to the audio  
5 frame rate.

44. The method of claim 37, further comprising a scroll-back element for enabling the operator to scroll back to the display of time code at the start of a prior take, further comprising scrolling back to the display of time code at the start of the take.

45. The method of claim 38, wherein the portable power supply comprises a plurality of batteries, and wherein supplying comprises supplying portable power with the plurality of batteries.

46. The method of claim 38, wherein the compartment is further adapted to house a plurality of control knobs, and the sliding door is adapted to uncover the control knobs for access thereto without uncovering the portable power supply, further comprising sliding the sliding door and uncovering the control knobs  
5 without uncovering the portable power supply.

47. The method of claim 38, further including a battery pack for containing the plurality of batteries, adapted to be installed in the compartment, and wherein supplying comprises supplying portable power with the battery pack containing a plurality of batteries.

48. The method of claim 39, wherein the voltage-displaying element is adapted to display the portable power voltage in the display under load upon starting up the system, and wherein displaying the voltage comprises displaying the voltage under load upon starting up the system.

49. The method of claim 40, further comprising a no-power warning element for warning of no power in the portable power supply, and wherein warning comprises warning of no power in the portable power supply.

50. The method of claim 41, wherein the production-related information which is adapted to be written in the written-entry-enabling area comprises camera logs, and wherein entering comprises entering the camera logs.

51. The method of claim 42, further comprising an adjusting element for enabling the adjustment of the settings in the setting element, further comprising adjusting the settings.

52. The method of claim 42, further comprising a settings remembering element for remembering the settings when there is no power in the system, further comprising remembering the settings when there is no power in the system.

53. The method of claim 42, further including a clapper, adapted to be closed at the end of the take, wherein the settings element includes a hold clap frame mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the display of the start time of the take, upon the passing of a set period of time after the display turns off, upon the closing of the clapper after the opening thereof upon the start of the take, to enable the observation of the start take time after the end of the take, further comprising setting the settings element such that upon closing the clapper at the end of the take, the display turns off, and the start time of the take is displayed upon the passing of a set period after the display turns off.

54. The method of claim 42, wherein the settings element includes a battery life conserving mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the display to turn

off after a set period of time, further comprising setting the settings element to enable the display to turn off after a set period of time.

55. The method of claim 42, wherein the settings element includes a synchronization reminding mode, adapted to be set so as to remind the user to periodically re-synchronize the video time code and the audio time code, further comprising setting the settings element to remind the user to periodically re-synchronize the video time code and the audio time code.

56. The method of claim 42, wherein the settings element includes a synchronization locking mode, adapted to be set so as to indicate that the video time code and the audio time code have been synchronized, and that the system has been turned on, turned off, and turned on again, alerting the user to re-synchronize the video time code and the audio time code, further comprising setting the settings element to indicate that the video time code and the audio time code have been synchronized, and that the system has been turned on, turned off, and turned on again.

57. The method of claim 42, wherein the slate further includes a clapper adapted to be closed at the start of a take, and to freeze the time code displayed in the display element at the start of the take, and wherein the settings element includes a flash frame mode, adapted to be set so as to increase the intensity of the display upon closing the clapper to display a flash frame, and to hold the intensified display for a number of frames, further comprising setting the settings element to increase the intensity of the display upon closing the clapper to display the flash frame, and to hold the intensified display for a number of frames.

58. The method of claim 42, wherein the settings element includes a non-volatile memory for the modes settings, adapted to retain the memory without backup power, further comprising retaining the memory without backup power.

59. The method of claim 42, wherein the settings element includes a low brightness mode, adapted to be set so as to enable the lowering of the brightness of the display, further comprising setting the settings element to enable the lowering of the brightness of the display.

60. The method of claim 44, wherein the scroll-back element is adapted to enable scrolling back to the display of time code for the start of each of a plurality of prior takes, and wherein scrolling back further includes scrolling back to the time code display for the start of each of the plurality of prior takes.

61. The method of claim 45, wherein the plurality of batteries comprise six double-A batteries, and wherein supplying further comprises supplying portable power with the six double-A batteries.

62. The method of claim 50, wherein the camera logs include the type of film roll being used and the current film roll in production, and wherein entering further comprises entering the type of film roll being used and the current film roll in production.

63. The method of claim 51, wherein the adjusting element comprises an adjustment setting button, adapted to change the setting upon actuation thereof, and wherein adjusting comprises actuating the adjustment settings button.

64. The method of claim 60, wherein the plurality of prior take portions comprise about sixteen prior takes, and wherein scrolling back further comprises scrolling back about sixteen prior takes.

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